(b) and (c) The Federation has, interalia, suggested the following for rationalising the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954:

(i) Penalties be graded according to the gravity of offence — The provisions specifying minimum punishment should be deleted.

(ii) Imported food articles should not be subjected to the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and certificate issued by the exporting country with regard to the nature and quality of food imported should be deemed to be sufficient compliance of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in India.

(iii) Provisions be made permitting appointment of more than one nominee by a company.

(iv) Prosecution of manufacturer/supplier alone in certain situations when vendor does not seem to be responsible for the offence.

(d) The Report of the Task Force has been examined by the Government in consultation with the Central Committee on Food Standards, a Statutory Committee set up under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and the representatives of Confederation of Indian Food Trade and Industry (CIFTI) and the process for initiating modifications has commenced.

Sub-critical nuclear tests conducted by USA

*335. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 190 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th July, 1997, and state:

(a) what is the precise nature and number of sub-critical nuclear tests conducted so far by the USA; and

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERWANI): (a) On July 2, 1997, the United States conducted one sub-critical nuclear test condenamed 'Rebound' at its test site in Nevada. The test has been called "sub-critical" because no critical mas is formed during the experiment which can lead to a self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction.

(b) Government have taken note of the "sub-critical" underground nuclear test and expressed concern that this has been justified "as an activity permitted under the CTBT". These developments confirm the validity of India's concerns expressed during the CTBT negotiations, as well as our eventual decision last year, that India could not be a party to such a treaty. India however continues to remain committed to achieving genuine nuclear disarmament in a comprehensive and non-discriminatory manner.

Medical collaboration between SRMC, Chennai and HMS, USA

*336 SHRI AKHILESH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: (a) whether Government are aware that Shri Ramachandra Medical College (SRMC), Chennai, has tied-up with the Harvard Medical School of USA, for collaborative efforts in the key areas of medical education, research, treatment and transfer of information, as reported in the Hindu, dated the 27th July, 1997;

(b) whether an agreement to this effect has since been signed between the representatives of the SRMC and the Harvard School; and

(c) if so, what are the broad features of the agreement?